

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN

*Bread Loaf
Writers'
Conference*



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In the present plans for the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the College reserves the right to make any changes rendered inevitable by circumstances beyond its control.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

SAMUEL S. STRATTON, President of Middlebury College.

STEPHEN A. FREEMAN, Vice-President of Middlebury College.

THEODORE MORRISON, Director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference.

RICHARD L. BROWN, Assistant Director in charge of admissions, Writers' Conference.

MARGARET L. HOPKINS, Secretary of the Summer Schools.

M I D D L E B U R Y C O L L E G E

*Writers' Conference
at Bread Loaf*

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

AUGUST 13 — AUGUST 27, 1947

THEODORE MORRISON, *Director*



Staff and Fellows, 1946

First Row: Mrs. Burdick, Mrs. Morrison, Helen Everitt, Mrs. Stegner

Second Row: Robert Frost, Graeme Lorimer, Wallace Stegner, Theodore Morrison, William Sloane

Third Row: Robert Bordner (fellow), Andrew Glaze (fellow), Rudolph Kieve (fellow), Eugene Burdick (fellow)

PURPOSE

THE MIDDLEBURY College Writers' Conference at Bread Loaf is designed for those who are themselves actively writing with professional purpose, and who want criticism of their work and discussion of writing problems. The Conference also welcomes those who wish to come to Bread Loaf as listeners and participants in discussion without submitting manuscripts.

The time and place of the Conference favor study combined with enjoyment, and also congenial and ready discussion between Conference members and staff members. The Conference is housed at Bread Loaf, part of the 'mountain campus' of Middlebury College received through the bequest of Joseph Battell and situated in the hills and forest about twelve miles from Middlebury itself.

The Conference aims at the results of education without its academic accompaniments. It gives no degrees, credits, or formal courses, but seeks as its primary purpose to increase a writer's understanding of his job by criticism of work written previously and by experienced discussion of both the principles of the various main forms of writing and the practical publishing conditions of the present time. The fact that the Conference staff is employed by and responsible to Middlebury College means that it can devote itself whole-heartedly and exclusively to its purpose of candid and practical criticism and discussion. The staff is chosen from writers, teachers, editors, and publishers who know the craft of writing and the problems of marketing at first hand.

The program of the Conference is fourfold: (1) talks by staff members on the technique of the main forms of writing; (2) "clinics" for group discussion of manuscripts by Conference members; (3) individual interviews for private criticism of manuscripts; (4) talks of more general informative and critical interest on publishing and on contemporary letters and related topics.

The staff does not take the view that a practicing writer can be produced by education, formal training, or criticism; certainly not in two weeks. Nevertheless, the program through the years has proved rewarding in many ways and degrees to different individuals: as a pleasant and stimulating experience; as an aid to the better understanding of the writer's job; as a means of more rapid advancement toward the success of which a given individual is capable; as a source of wise counsel and helpful associations in particular publishing problems, where such problems may arise.



William Sloane, Robert Frost

STAFF AND PROGRAM

VERSE

ROBERT FROST

Mr. Frost was among those who helped to found the Conference. In recent years, *A Masque of Reason* received its first public reading and its first stage performance at Bread Loaf, and many of his later poems have received their first or early readings at the Conference.

THEODORE MORRISON

Director of the Conference. Formerly on the editorial staff of *The Atlantic Monthly*. Teacher of composition at Harvard. Latest book: *The Devious Way*. In preparation: *The Portable Chaucer*.

NOVEL AND SHORT STORY

BERNARD DeVOTO

Author of *We Accept with Pleasure* and *Mountain Time* (novels), *The Year of Decision* (history), *Mark Twain's America* (criticism), and many other books and articles. Editor, Easy Chair department in *Harper's Magazine*.

EDITH MIRRIELEES

Teacher and authority on the short story. Formerly Professor of English, Stanford University. Author of *The Story Writer*. Editor of *The Pacific Spectator*, a new quarterly magazine.

HELEN EVERITT

Magazine writer, former literary agent. Contributor to *Harper's*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Ladies' Home Journal*. Director of the Radcliffe College summer course in Publishing Procedures.

WILLIAM SLOANE

Publisher, author of plays and novels, including *The Edge of Running Water*. President of William Sloane Associates, Inc.

MAGAZINE AND FEATURE ARTICLES, NON-FICTION BOOKS

FLETCHER PRATT

Article writer, fiction writer, historian, biographer. Author of *The Road to Empire*, *Empire and the Sea* (studies of the Napoleonic conflict), *The Navy's War*, *Night Work*, and many other books and magazine contributions.

Note: Mr. DeVoto will also participate in the discussion of non-fiction.

STAFF ASSISTANTS

The staff will be assisted in reading manuscripts and in giving individual criticisms by the holders of two special staff fellowships:

MARK SAXTON

Novelist and editor. Author of *The Year of August*, *Prepared for Rage*, and other novels.

JOSEPH KINSEY HOWARD

Author of *Montana*; *High, Wide, and Handsome*.

PUBLICATION ADVISER

ALAN COLLINS

President, Curtis Brown, Ltd., literary agents.

VISITING LECTURERS

KARL SHAPIRO

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the Shelley Memorial Award in poetry. Author of *Essay on Rime, V-Letter, and Other Poems*, etc.

WALTER PRICHARD EATON

Head of the work in playwriting at the Yale School of the Fine Arts. Author of *A Study of English Drama on the Stage, Plays and Players, The American Stage of Today*, etc.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF ADMISSIONS

RICHARD L. BROWN

Department of English, Middlebury College.

DATES

The Conference begins with the noon meal on Wednesday, August 13. Registration will take place Wednesday afternoon, and the first formal meeting will be that evening.

Wednesday, August 27, is the last day of scheduled work. For those who cannot conveniently leave Wednesday night, breakfast and luncheon will be served on Thursday, August 28. For students arriving and leaving by train or bus, transportation will be available for the trip between Bread Loaf and Middlebury. A reasonable charge will be made for this trip. Baggage which arrives on or before August 13, will be transported free of charge from Middlebury to Bread Loaf.

Members traveling by train or bus should buy tickets for Middlebury, Vermont.

It will be appreciated if members do not bring radios. Dogs are not allowed in the dormitories. An outdoor parking space for automobiles is provided free of charge by the School.

LIFE AT BREAD LOAF

The Writers' Conference is one of the Middlebury College summer schools.* The College Administration seeks, in its arrangements for the Conference, to maintain the regularity indispensable to conducting a school while meeting the convenience and comfort

*French, Spanish, Italian, and Russian Schools and Music Conference at Middlebury; German School at Bristol, Vermont; School of English and Writers' Conference at Bread Loaf.

of the membership, who come for purely voluntary work and for recreation.

Bread Loaf Community owned by Middlebury College, is used only for the purpose of housing the School of English (June 27 to August 9) and the Writers' Conference, their instructing staffs, visiting speakers, and guests of the college. The Community is situated in one of the largest tracts of forest in the East, well up in the Green Mountains, above the Champlain Valley.

Meals During the Conference, the dining room will be open from 8:00 to 8:30 for breakfast; 1:00 to 1:30 for lunch; and 6:00 to 6:30 for dinner. Late breakfast, and afternoon and evening snacks may be obtained for a small charge at the Conference club room.

Services Bread Loaf has a summer postoffice. Members of the Conference should instruct correspondents to address them at Bread Loaf, Vermont. Taxi service is maintained to Middlebury, twelve miles away, where drugstores, banks, etc., are available.

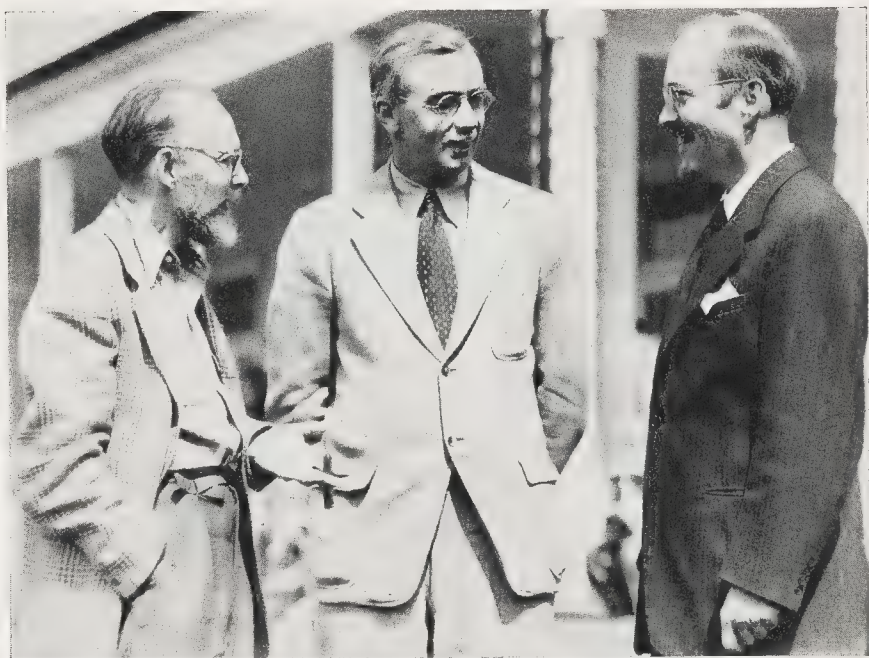
Clothes and Climate The Conference session usually includes both warm and cool to sharp weather. Members should come prepared for both. Informal dress is always appropriate, but dinner dresses are also appropriate on some occasions for those who wish to bring them.

Recreation Tennis, lawn games, and walks in the woods and mountains are available at or immediately about Bread Loaf. Horse-back riding can usually be arranged for. Swimming in streams or at Lake Dunmore is at reasonable driving distance.

Plan of the Day Morning sessions of the Conference begin at 9:00 or 9:30 and continue, with brief interludes, until shortly before lunch. A session after lunch is customary on week days except Saturdays. An evening lecture or entertainment is customary every day except Sundays, which are left free. During the first week, morning and afternoon sessions are largely devoted to talks by staff members on the technique of the main forms of writing. During the second week, sessions are largely devoted to discussion of manuscripts submitted by contributing members. Individual interviews for criticism are largely concentrated during the second week. The Conference aims at a balance between work and time for recreation and for making acquaintance both with people and with the country. All attendance at sessions is, of course, purely voluntary. The schedule is so arranged that members can attend all of the extensive discussion program if they wish.







Fletcher Pratt, Colonel Joseph Greene, Robert Bordner (fellow)

FELLOWSHIPS

The Conference has a limited number of fellowships to offer, provided by the generosity of certain Conference members, publishers, and staff members who have wished to make it possible for younger writers to profit by attending the session at Bread Loaf. The fellowships pay all expenses at Bread Loaf (not travelling expenses) and are offered under the following conditions:

1. Personal applications are not accepted.
2. To be considered for a fellowship, each candidate must be *nominated* by a magazine editor, publisher, literary agent, well-known writer, or college teacher. Nomination may be made informally in a letter to the Director, addressed to Warren House, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.
3. On receiving each nomination, the Director will write to the candidate recommended. The letter will (a) inform the candidate that he has been nominated and (b) ask the candidate whether, if awarded a fellowship, he can be reasonably certain of attending the session during the announced dates.

4. In the light of the answers to this letter, a committee of the Conference staff will award the fellowships, guided by the following points:

a. Tangible achievement, such as published books or contributions to magazines, or plays or scripts produced, will be important evidence on a candidate's behalf. But it is also our purpose to discover when possible writers who may be expected to succeed professionally, but whose work is still in manuscript.

b. The Conference tries to distribute the fellowships so that several of the main professional forms of writing will be represented—verse, magazine fiction, the novel, etc. The Conference tries to give the fellowships to writers who seem likely to profit by them and to contribute by their presence to the success of the Conference as a whole.

5. All nominations for 1947 should be in the Director's hands by June 1.

Among our fellows in recent years have been James Still (proposed by Viking Press); Robert Francis (proposed by The Macmillan Company); Eudora Welty (proposed by Katherine Anne Porter); Carson McCullers (proposed by Houghton Mifflin); Theodore Roethke (proposed by Peter Monro Jack); Dilys Bennett Laing (proposed by Duell, Sloan, & Pearce); Catherine Pomeroy Stewart (proposed by *Ladies' Home Journal*); A. B. Guthrie, Jr. (proposed by *The Atlantic Monthly*); Elizabeth Abell (proposed by The Macmillan Company); E. Louise Mally (proposed by Henry Holt and Co.); Esther Carlson (proposed by Paul Reynolds and Richard Wright); and Eugene L. Burdick (proposed by Edith Mirrielees).

Special Fellowships for 1947 Doubleday and Company have placed two fellowships at the unrestricted disposal of the Conference.

Two fellowships at Bread Loaf have been offered as prizes in a literary competition sponsored by the Navy League and open to all personnel in the Navy and Marine Corps on active duty up to May 1. All kinds and lengths of manuscripts are eligible. Final decisions will be made by the Director of the Conference, acting with a representative of the Navy.

ADMISSION

GENERAL POLICY

1. Since much of the success of the Conference depends on opportunity for informal discussion, the total enrollment is not allowed



Theodore Morrison, Bernard DeVoto

to exceed the capacity of the staff to give adequate personal attention to manuscripts and to the problems in which individual members are interested.

During recent summers, the Conference has received many more applications than it could accept without abandoning this policy. *All those who wish to attend are therefore urged to apply as early as possible.* Both Contributors and Auditors (see below) are subject to selection. Contributors are judged by examples of their work submitted at the time of application. Auditors are judged by evidence of serious literary interest, such as published work or active interest in writing or teaching.

2. Applications will be accepted only from people who intend to be present for the whole session. No reduction of rates is offered for part-time attendance.

3. The restrictions of space at Bread Loaf, both in classrooms and living-quarters, make it impossible to accommodate friends or relatives of members. Attendance can be permitted *only* to regularly-enrolled members.

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. *Contributors*

Those who wish to bring manuscripts to Bread Loaf for criticism by the staff should apply for admission as *Contributors*.

Contributors are asked to submit examples of their work, published or unpublished, *at the time of application*. The object of asking for these examples is to provide as far as possible that contributing members of the Conference shall be likely to profit by the criticism of the staff. Those who do not seem likely to profit by staff criticism will be advised not to enroll as Contributors.

Admission as a Contributor should in no sense be taken as an indication of the sort of criticism which the applicant should expect from the staff members after reaching Bread Loaf; nor should it be taken as a judgment on the merits or promise of the work submitted. It represents only the careful but not infallible opinion of a preliminary manuscript reader that the applicant may reasonably expect to profit as a writer by the instruction, criticism, and associations of Bread Loaf.

No criticism of any manuscript will be given before the Conference begins.

Contributors should bring manuscripts in their hand luggage so that they may be submitted to the Director on registration day.

2. *Auditors*

Those who do not wish to submit manuscripts should apply for admission as *Auditors*, giving any relevant evidence of active literary interests.



The Theater, Library and Bread Loaf Mountain

Auditors may attend all lectures, discussions, "clinics" and other general meetings of the Conference. They may not submit manuscripts for staff criticism; otherwise their privileges are in no way different from those of Contributors.

APPLICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

1. Application blanks, bulletins, and general information about the Conference may be secured from the central office of the Secretary of the Summer Schools, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

2. Fill out your application blank and send it to Richard L. Brown, Assistant Director in charge of admissions, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont.

3. If you desire admission as a Contributor, forward to Mr. Brown examples of your published or unpublished work at the same time that you return your application blank. As much material may be submitted as you feel is necessary to represent fairly the range and quality of your work.

All manuscripts must be clearly typewritten, and will be returned only if accompanied by full postage or clear directions for return by express collect. A full and clear address should be written on all manuscripts as well as on all letters. Some time may pass before manuscripts can be returned, and it will therefore be an advantage to keep copies. The Conference assumes no responsibility for manuscripts lost in the mails or otherwise. All possible care will be taken to prevent such loss.

4. If you desire admission as an Auditor, return your application, without manuscript, to Richard L. Brown. Take care to indicate that you wish admission as an Auditor.

VETERANS

Veterans attending the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference may take advantage of the educational benefits of the G. I. Bill of Rights. The cost of tuition will be paid directly by the Government; room and board charges will be paid by the veteran out of his subsistence allowance. *The procedure by which a veteran may apply his educational benefits to the cost of the Conference may require considerable time. Veterans who wish to enroll are therefore urged to make early application to the Conference and to apply immediately for the necessary Certificate of Eligibility from their local Veterans Administration Agency.* This certificate must be presented to the Treasurer on registration day if the student expects to have the cost of his tuition paid by the



Louis Untermeyer, Fletcher Pratt

Government; otherwise, he should come prepared to pay his own tuition bill.

FEES

1. For Contributors

The charges for Contributors, including board, room, and tuition for the entire term, are from \$130 to \$155, depending on the kind of room desired or available.

2. For Auditors

The corresponding charges for Auditors are from \$105 to \$130.

3. A non-refundable registration fee of \$15 will be called for by the Secretary of the Summer Schools at the time the applicant is notified that he has been accepted for membership. Rooms will be assigned only to those whose applications have been accepted and who have paid the registration fee. This fee will be credited against the applicant's total charges.

4. Make all checks payable to Middlebury College.

5. Duly accepted members who have paid the registration fee will be considered, after arriving at Bread Loaf, to have contracted for board and tuition, and will be required to abide by this arrangement. The Conference, however, reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any member.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE.

Founded in 1800

Summer Schools

1947

The Bread Loaf School of English

on the Bread Loaf Mountain Campus
REGINALD L. COOK, *Director*

June 27–August 9

The French School

on the Middlebury College Campus
VINCENT GUILLOTON, *Director*

June 27–August 14

The German School

in the picturesque village of Bristol
ERNST FEISE, *Director*

June 30–August 14

The Italian School

on the Middlebury College Campus
CAMILLO MERLINO, *Director*

June 27–August 14

The Russian School

on the Middlebury College Campus
MISCHA H. FAYER, *Director*

June 27–August 14

The Spanish School

on the Middlebury College Campus
JUAN A. CENTENO, *Director*

June 27–August 14

The Composers' Conference and Chamber Music Center

ALAN CARTER, *Director*

August 16–August 30

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

on the Bread Loaf Mountain Campus
THEODORE MORRISON, *Director*

August 13–August 27

For bulletins and other information write to

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

SUMMER SCHOOLS OFFICE

MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

